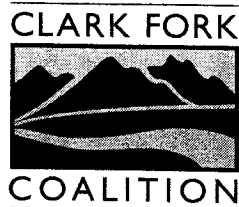


EXHIBIT 3  
DATE 1/19/09  
HB 79



House Natural Resources Committee, Representatives:

Milburn, Mike (Chair)  
Hendrick, Gordon (Vice Chair)  
Pomnichowski, JP (Vice Chair)  
Belcourt, Tony  
Bennett, Gerald  
Blewett, Anders  
Cohenour, Jill  
Dickenson, Sue  
Hands, Betsy  
Hoven, Brian  
McGillvray, Tom  
Menahan, Mike  
Mendenhall, Scott  
Miller, Mike  
Reinhart, Michele  
Van Dyk, Kendall  
Vincent, Chas  
Warburton, Wendy  
cc: Joe Kolman, Staff

January 19, 2009

Re: HB 79

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 79. **The Clark Fork Coalition opposes HB 79** because it creates unnecessary and burdensome restrictions on the State's ability to manage its vital resources. By not allowing any net gain in the State's land ownership, **this bill would subvert the responsibility of the State of Montana to best manage its water, wildlife, and other natural resources**, which are held in the public trust for the use and benefit of all Montanans.

The Clark Fork Coalition is comprised of 1,500 members dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River watershed, a 22,000-square-mile basin in western Montana.

Thank you for your time and dedication to Montana's natural resources. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Karen Knudsen  
Executive Director  
[karen@clarkfork.org](mailto:karen@clarkfork.org)  
406/542.0539

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